LIBRARY

MALLING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

For 1939.

By the

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. N. HAY BOLTON.)

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. S. L. BUNDY.)

Council Offices,
West Malling.

To the Chairman, and Members of the Malling R.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my sixth Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1939. The Report is much later than in previous years the delay being due to the fact that the Registrar General's figures were not available until the beginning of this month.

In accordance with instructions contained in Circular 2067, issued by the Minister of Health the report is confined to essential matters only. This applies also to the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The vital statistics continue to remain satisfactory. The death rate of 9.90 compares very favourably with the figure of 12.1 per 1,000 population for England and Wales. The birth rate of 14.64 is slightly lower than the corresponding figure for England and Wales.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during the year. Eighty-eight cases of diphtheria were notified as compared with sixty for the previous year. Scarlet fever notifications also showed a slight increase. No deaths were registered as due to these diseases.

The Registrar General's estimates of the population are given as follows:-

(a) 30,740 for the calculation of birth rates.

(b) 32,380 for calculation of death rates or the incidence of notifiable diseases.

SECTION A.

Area of the District (in acres) . . .	45,650
Registrar General's estimate of . . .	
(a) resident population, mid year, 1939.	30,740
(b) average population appropriate to calculation of death rates. . .	32,380
Number of inhabited houses (end 1939) according to rate books - computed.	9,127
Rateable Value.	£174,005
Sum represented by a penny rate. . . .	£703

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate . . .	420	208	212
Illegitimate . .	20	7	13
Total Live Births .	440	215	225
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1939.			14.64

Still Births	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate . . .	12	7	5
Illegitimate . .	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .			20.27

Deaths	
Total	357
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population	11.25 (crude)
Adjusted for comparision with the rest of England and Wales (i.e.) multiplied by the Areal Comparability Factor of 0.88.	9.90

Deaths from Puerperal Causes-

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.
Other Puerperal causes	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	2.21

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births . .	40.18
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	44.39
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	50.00
Deaths from cancer (all ages) . . .	64
" " measles " " . . .	Nil.
" " whooping cough (all ages) .	1
" " diarrhoea (under two years of age)	3

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Staff. No changes have taken place in the personnel which remains the same as for the previous year.

(a) Laboratory Facilities. The arrangements made by the Kent County Council have continued to work smoothly and efficiently throughout the year. No important changes have been made in these services.

No cases of Undulant fever were reported.

(b) Ambulance Facilities. No changes have taken place in these services from the previous year.

(c) Nursing in the Home. The arrangements as noted in my previous report continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Kent County Council are responsible for the administration of the midwifery and maternity services within the area. I may say that these services are adequate and much valuable work is being carried out in spite of many difficulties.

In my Report for 1938, I commented on the important work done by Voluntary Nursing Associations. The scope of their activities have been extended considerably, and very valuable work has been carried out during the course of the year.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The following cases of notifiable diseases occured during the year:-

Diseases	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox . .	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever .	42	75	Nil
Diphtheria .	88	93	Nil
Enteric Fever .	1	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia . .	14	Nil	20
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas .	14	Nil	Nil

With reference to the death and case rates of notifiable and other diseases the following table is inserted for comparision with England and Wales and as will be seen these figures compare very favourably with the rates for the country as a whole:-

	England and Wales	Malling R.D.
Rates per 1,000 population.		
Deaths:-		
All causes . . .	12.1	9.90
Enteric fever . . .	.00	.00
Smallpox . . .	.00	.00
Measles	.01	.00
Scarlet fever . .	.01	.00
Whooping cough . .	.03	.04
Diphtheria . . .	.05	.00
Influenza . . .	.21	.12
Notifications:-		
Smallpox . . .	.00	.00
Scarlet fever . .	1.89	1.30
Diphtheria . . .	1.14	2.61
Enteric fever . .	.04	.04
Erysipelas . . .	.34	.12
Pneumonia . . .	1.02	.43

Tuberculosis. Twenty-five deaths were registered as due to respiratory tuberculosis, 18 males and 7 females, yielding a death rate of .77 per 1,000 population. Five deaths 3 males and 2 females were registered as due to non-respiratory tuberculosis giving a mortality rate of .16 per 1,000 population.

The table set out below gives the details of new cases admitted to the register during the year together with such deaths as occurred:-

Age Periods	NEW CASES Pul. Male	Pul. Female	Non-Pul Male	Non-Pul Female	DEATHS Pul. Male	Pul. Female	Non-Pul. Male	Non-Pul. Female
0- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1- 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
5-15	2	1	3	3	-	-	-	1
15-25	2	4	-	3	1	3	1	-
25-35	1	3	-	-	3	-	-	-
35-45	4	1	-	-	6	3	1	-
45-55	2	1	-	-	3	1	-	-
55-56	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
65 upwards	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals.	14	11	3	6	17	8	3	2

The table set out below shows the number of deaths from all causes during the year:-

No.	CAUSES OF DEATH Cause	Number Male	Number Female
4	Whooping Cough	1	-
6	Influenza	2	2
9	Tuberculosis (of the Respiratory System)	17	8
10	Other Tuberculosis	3	2
13	Cancer	34	30
14	Diabetes	3	3
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage	9	14
16	Heart Disease	46	40
17	Aneurysm	-	1
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	13	15
19	Bronchitis	3	4
20	Pneumonia (all Forms)	11	9
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	-
22	Peptic Ulcer	3	1
23	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	-
24	Appendicitis	-	1
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	3	-
26	Other Liver Diseases	-	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	4	4
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5	5
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	-	1
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation etc.,	7	3
32	Senility	11	3
33	Suicide	3	-
34	Other Violence	9	2
35	Other Defined Diseases	9	8
	Totals	200	157

I would like to express my keen and sincere appreciation for the kindness and consideration extended to me throughout the year by the members of the Council. In spite of the difficulties due to War conditions every endeavour has been made to keep the work of the Department up to date.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. Hay Bolton.

Medical Officer of Health.

15. 10. 40.

Council Offices,
West Malling.

14. 10. 40.

To the Chairman, and Members of the Malling R.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith the following details of the sanitary circumstances of the area and of the work carried out by my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

Present conditions make it difficult to submit the usual full report upon the statutory and other activities of the Department, I have, therefore, endeavoured to be as concise as possible and to give details only of the more important sections of the work.

It is unnecessary for me to add that both my own time and that of my staff has been fully occupied throughout the year. A great many difficulties have been met and overcome. Extra work has been placed on all concerned which has involved long and continuous hours of duty. Throughout the year air raid precautions and the re-organization of the fire services occupied a major portion of my time. In September the scheme for the evacuation of London school children was put into operation. This raised a great many problems vitally affecting public health. Many inspections were carried out to ensure that no over-crowding occurred and that conditions generally were satisfactory.

SECTION C.

Water. No new sources of supply have been utilised. The extension of the mains have taken place in the parishes of

Offham, Ditton, Aylesford and Snodland, a total of 1,107 yds of three inch main being laid.

Samples, etc., Four samples of the mains supply were submitted for bacteriological examination. The Company's Analyst also carried out routine examinations. In no case was the water reported upon unfavourably.

Six samples of well water were submitted to the County Analyst. In four cases unfavourable reports were received and the mains supply was made available to the houses concerned.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No alterations of importance have been made with reference to the drainage and sewerage of the parishes within the area. The proposed schemes at Aylesford and Wateringbury have been postponed for the duration of the War. In spite of the fact that the pumps at Aylesford are very old and that constant care is required to keep them in efficient working order I am pleased to be able to report that no serious breakdown has occurred throughout the year.

Repairs to sewers have been effected as and when found necessary. At Snodland part of the sewer was relaid and several manholes were reconstructed.

The electrically controlled centrifugal pumps have given no trouble whatsoever during the year.

Rivers and Streams.

Steps taken to guard against pollution included inspection of streams, the testing of drainage schemes, and the submission of samples of water for analysis for evidence of pollution. In three cases informal notices were served on the owners concerned where pollution existed. In addition to this a complaint was received with reference to the pollution of a stream at intermittent intervals. Investigations were made and it was found that an impure effluent from a large institution was being allowed to discharge into the stream. Representations were at once made to the Authorities concerned but although the nuisance was abated for a space it recurred from time to time. This position was unsatisfactory and it was brought to the notice of the responsible official. It was found that certain works were necessary and these were due to commence early in 1940. When these works are completed it is hoped that no further cause for complaint will arise.

Public Cleansing.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal. The collection service has continued to work efficiently throughout the year. No new changes have been made in the methods of collection.

Disposition is as in previous years by controlled tipping.

(b) Cesspool Emptying. Delivery of a new Dennis 850 gallon cesspool emptier was taken in July. There is sufficient work for both emptiers and it has meant that overtime has been cut down to a minimum.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the year 1,906 inspections were carried out in connection with the work of the Department and the following detailed statement shows nuisances and defects remedied:-

Keeping of animals .	7.
Hop Pickers Camps .	21.
Sanitary accommodation.-	
1. Where insufficient.	14.
2. Where defective .	92.
Drainage.-	
1. Reconstructed. .	16.
2. Repaired. . .	41.
3. Cleansed. . .	864.
Cesspools.-	
1. Repaired. . .	12.
Offensive Accumulations removed . . .	12.
Refuse receptacles provided or renewed .	341.
Tents, Vans and sheds infringements rectified	8.
Smoke Nuisances abated	2.
Yard paving made good	16.
Dampness remedied in dwellings . .	40.
Roofs and rain water pipes repaired .	21.
Floors relaid where rough and faulty. .	23.
Walls and ceilings repaired. . .	62.
Windows and ventilation altered to comply with requirements . .	9.
Baths, Lavatory Basins, sinks and Sanitary Fitments repaired or provided where absent	11.
Water supplies.-	
(a) New supplies provided. . .	6.
(b) Precautions for preventing contamination of existing supplies. . .	7.
Miscellaneous defects remedied. . .	71.

2. Defects Found.

Particulars.	Number of Defects. Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	No of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	3	2	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2).	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3).	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-				
Insufficient	2	2	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-
	10	9		-

Public Health Acts.

Premises	No. in District.	Inspections	Defects Found.	Defects Remedied.
Slaughter Houses.	29	403	8	7
Offensive Trades.	Nil,	-	-	-
Houses let in Lodgings.	Nil.	-	-	-
Common Lodging Houses.	Nil.	-	-	-

Factories Act, 1937.

1. Inspections.

Premises.	No. of inspections.	No. of written notices.	No. of Prosecutions.
Factories with mechanical power	61	2	Nil.
Factories without mechanical power	30	1	Nil.
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises)	6	1	Nil.
Totals	97	4	Nil.

The Shops Acts, 1912-1936. Inspections of shops and similar premises were carried out as in previous years. Informal notices were served in three cases to provide proper and suitable sanitary conveniences for the use of assistants.

Camping Sites. No licences were issued under Section 267 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement.

In spite of the fact that there are large industrial plants within the district comparatively few complaints were received as to the emission of smoke from the chimneys. Informal action was taken in one case against an occupier of a factory but the other complaints investigated were found to be groundless.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

Twelve houses, of which four were Council houses were disinfested during the year, by means of spraying with "Zaldicide". This method proved efficient and no case of re-infestation was brought to my notice.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. Fifteen complaints were dealt with under the Act and in cases of serious infestation rat poison was supplied to the occupiers. Careful attention was given to each complaint and every effort was made to assist in the extermination of the vermin.

It is of interest to note that routine steps as set out in my report for 1938, are taken at the Council's refuse dumps to prevent rat infestation.

Section D. Housing.

There is little of importance to report in regard to housing as during the year the position has not been materially affected. The statistics are omitted as directed in Circular 1961. Altogether 487 inspections were carried out under the Housing and Public Health Acts, and 174 houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action. Fifteen formal notices were served under these Acts and the owners carried out the necessary repairs.

During the year 18 houses were erected by the Council and 156 by private enterprise.

Section E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. One hundred and seventy five inspections were made of farms and dairies within the area. The standard of cleanliness of the majority of the premises is satisfactory.

No samples of non-designated milk were submitted for bacterial content, whilst the County Medical Officer of Health arranges for the collection and submission of milk for the tubercle bacilli test.

No formal notices were served under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and in three cases sheds were re-conditioned by reason of informal action. At the end of the year 85 premises were registered.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 & 1938. Eighteen producers were registered for the production of "Accredited" Milk and one for "Tuberculin Tested". During the year fifty one samples were submitted to the County Laboratory, and of these ten failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue test. In view of the fact that the unsatisfactory reports were received from four producers the position is satisfactory. In my report for 1938, I mentioned the case of a producer from whom consecutive bad reports were received. This producer failed to renew his licence and his name has been removed from the register of accredited producers.

(b) Meat and other Foods. In view of the fact that towards the end of the year the regional slaughtering scheme came into operation, the necessity for routine visits to slaughter houses ceased to exist.

The following food was surrendered voluntarily by the owners:-

7 Beasts carcases.	11 Pigs carcases.
9 Bovine lungs.	8 Pigs plucks.
17 Beasts livers.	11 Sheeps plucks.

One box of Cod.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

(c) Adulteration, Etc., I am obliged to the Deputy Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures (Mr. W. E. Allen) for the following details of the work carried out by Sampling Officers' within the area:-

Article.	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Remarks.
Baking Powder.	2	-	
Brandy.	1	-	
Butter.	10	-	(One informal)
Camphorated Oil.	1	-	
Castor Oil.	2	-	
Cocoa.	1	-	
Cod Liver Oil.	1	-	
Coffee.	3	-	
Condensed Milk.	1	-	(Informal)
Currants.	1	-	
Flour.	1	-	
Ground Rice.	1	-	
Jam.	4	-	(Three informal)
Lard.	3	-	
Lemon Barley Water.	1	-	
Margarine.	8	-	
Mustard.	2	-	
New Milk.	78	13	(Two "inferior". Other details below.)
Oatmeal.	1	-	
Olive Oil.	2	-	
Prunes, Dried.	1	-	
Sugar.	2	-	
Tincture of Iodine.	1	-	
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine.	2	-	
Whiskey.	1	-	
Totals.	131	13 =	144.

Details of unsatisfactory samples:-

New Milk.	16.6%	deficient	in	fat.)		No action taken.
" "	14.0%	"	"	")		
" "	11.0%	"	"	"		Written to by Clerk of the County Council.
" "	13.3%	"	"	")		Fined £2 and 5/- costs.
" "	11.3%	"	"	")		
" "	16.6%	"	"	"		Fined £5 including costs.
" "	19.0%	"	"	"		Written to by Clerk of the County Council.
" "	20.6%	"	"	")		Written to by Clerk of the
" "	6.6%	"	"	")		County Council.
" "	Contained	5.6%	added	water.		Fined £5.
" "	"	5.7%	"	"		Fined £5.
" "	"	20.7%	"	")		
" "	"	17.7%	"	")		Fined £2.

Hop Picking.

Hop picking commenced early in the year. The camps were inspected as often as possible to ensure that the provisions of the byelaws were being complied with. No serious complaints arose and no case of infectious disease occurred.

In concluding this brief report I would like to mention that I am deeply grateful for the continued support and many courtesies I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Council during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Stephen L. Bundy,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.